In all, 17 persons lost their lives and 26 persons received injuries during this period. Of the persons killed, one person who was in police custody died in a hospital; the DM Varanasi had ordered a magisterial inquiry into this death.

Police pickets have been set up in Varanasi city and intensive patrolling continues. At present, there are 13 companies of P.A.C. and 6 companies of CRPF deployed in the city. No untoward incident has been reported since 18 November, 1991. The State authorities have informed that ex-gratia grant @ Rs. 20,000|- each to the next of the kin of the persons killed in communal violence, Rs. 4,000|- each to those seriously injured, and Rs. 1,000|- each to those who received minor injuries is being paid.

All necessary help and assistance has been provided by the Central Government to the State. Five additional companies of CRPF were provided to the State on 15 November, 1991. The State Government have reported that the situation is under control and the curfew has been gradually relaxed. Curfew Passes have been given in deserving cases, including to all MPs and MLAs.

The Central Government is resolved to maintain communal peace and harmony in the country. Law & Order is a State subject; howere, the Centre has from time to time issued guidelines to the States for the promotion of communal harmony. It also shares its intelligence with the States and provides Central forces when necessary. In recent weeks, it has been alerting the States about the possibility of communal violence in different places. To improve the communal climate a meeting of the National Integration Council was convened on the 2nd November, 1991 to discuss the issue of Communal Harmony in the context of the Ram Janam Bhumi-Babri Masjid issue. The NIC called upon all concerned to act with restraint and in a manner that will promote harmony and goodwill among all communities.

I have conveyed to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh the anxiety expressed by the members over the situation in Varanasi and the manner in which it was permitted to develop. I drew his attention to the points which particularly agitated the members and requested him to furnish full information on these points. I also suggested to the Chief Minister to seriously consider the suggestion of holding a Judicial Inquiry into the incidents. I am pleased to report to the House that the Chief Minister informed me today that the State Government has ordered a Judicial Inquiry in respect to the communal incidents at Varanasi.

VHF Wireless Stations

570. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that militants in Kashmir and Punjab have set up VHF wireless stations with Pak assistance; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) The availability of communication equipment with the terrorists was revealed with the seizure of arms and ammunition and equipment from the terrorists in the Valley. The Government has taken steps for location and tackling such transmissions.